EXCISE

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Department of State

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5235

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2620

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT DISAPPEARANCE OF RELEASED-PRISONERS

1. SUMMARY. ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBASSY REGARDING THE SAFETY OF RELEASED PRISONERS. THE WELL PUBLICIZED DISAPPEARANCE IN FEBRUARY OF FOUR PRISONERS WHO WERE RELEASED AROUND MIDNIGHT FROM LA PLATA PRISON 'GONZALO CARRANZA, GUILLERMO SEGALLI, AND PERSONS THE WITH LAST NAME "DOMINGUEZ" AND "GALLARDO" SEE HALLMAN MEMORANDUM OF FEBRUARY 13, 1978) FIRST RAISED SERIOUS FEARS AMONG PRISONER FAMILIES HERE. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF A SIMILAR DISAPPEARANCE WHICH OCCURED IN MID MARCH, ALSO AT LA PLATA PRISON. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO REPORT ISSUED BY THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (APDH), A WELL KNOWN LABOR LAWYER FROM ZARATE, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, DR JUAN CARLOS DEGHI, JAILED SINCE MARCH 1976 WAS RELEASED FROM LA PLATA PRISON AT 2300 HOURS ON MARCH 20. HIS WIFE, WHO EXPECTED HER HUSBAND TO BE RELEASED AND WHO HAD MAINTAINED A VIGIL AT THE PRISON BECUASE OF THE PREVIOUS RELEASED PRISONER DISAPPEARANCES MET HIM AT THE PRISON GATE. A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE
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PRISON, BOTH WERE ABDUCTED. MRS. DEGHI WAS RELEASED A

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/20/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED

SHORT TIME LATER. ACCORDING TO A REPORT MADE TO THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY BY A CHURCH GROUP, DR. DEGHIS BODY WAS FOUND IN THE STREETS OF ZARATE WITH SEVERAL GUNSHOT WOUNDS ON MARCH 24. A FORENSIC DOCTOR ESTIMATED THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED ON MARCH 21.

3. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, FOLLOWING A NEW POLICY OF INCREASED PUBLICITY, HAS FILED "DENUNCIAS" WITH THE MILITARY JUNTA, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE FIRST ARMY CORPS COMMAND-- POINTING OUT THE APPARENT COMPLICITY BETWEEN THE PRISON AUTHORITIES AND THE MURDERERS OF DR. DEGHI.

4. B1, EC
THE ISSUE OF PERSONS DISAPPEARING AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MININT DIRECTROY OF SECURITY, COLONE SAN ROMAN, TOLD B1, EC
: THAT FOLLOWING THE FIRST FOUR PUBLICIZED ABDUCTIONS INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ALL FEDERAL PENITENTIARIES THAT PRISON RELEASES SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND WITH SOME FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT. NOTE: LA PLATA PRISON IS ADMINISTERED BY THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, ALTHOUGH IT HOUSES 795 POLITICAL PRISONERS THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.)

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS: THESE FIVE REASONABLY WELL DOCUMENTED PRISONER RELEASE AND DISAPPEARANCE CASES ARE HAVING SERIOUS REPURCUSSIONS AMONG PRISONER FAMILIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN ARGENTINA. THE FIRST FOUR LA PLATA DISAPPEARANCES WERE REPORTED WIDELY IN THE ARGENTINE PRESS. CHARGES OF COLLUSION BETWEEN PRISON
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AUTHORITIES AND THE ABDUCTORS ARE INEVITABLE WHEN PRISONER RELEASES OCCUR LATE AT NIGHT. WE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE RELASED PRISONERS WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, WHO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER FULLY AND GIVE US HIS FINDING.
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